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MR. SPEAKER :—" No, no. I do not consult the Government at all in regard to admission of questions."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" The point is, after you have admitted the question, for the Government to come forward now and say that they will not even answer the queston is a matter involving the privilege of the members of the House."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The Government can refuse to answer questions on the ground that it will be against public interest to do so."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" Therefore, Sir, Comrade Venkateswarlu seeks the protection of the Chair to force the Government to answer the question."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The Chair cannot interfere in the matter."

DR. K. B. MENON :—" Sir, this is not the first instance when the Government have given an answer of this kind. The Government had declined to answer questions but on other grounds. This time they decline to answer the question in public interest. It is not so, but it is a matter involving the question of privilege of the House and I therefore support Mr. Ramamurthi in his demand for a half-hour debate."

MR. SPEAKER :—" This does not come under ' Privilege of the House '."

Relief shops in Kavali taluk.

8-40 a.m. * 4 *Q*.—SRI B. RAMAKRISHNA REDDI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have taken any action to renew the relief shops in Kavali taluk, Nellore district;

(*b*) if so, how many shops were opened and in what places; and

(*c*) whether it is a fact that rice is sold at 12½ annas per seer in the relief shops?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) Yes.

" (*b*) 31 fair price shops have been opened, 14 in Kavali Town, 2 each in Bitragunta and Zalandanki and one each in Bhogole, Kakuturu, Gattupalli, Kesavaram, Siddanakōndur, Polempad, Kaligiri, Kudumuladinnepad, Tellapad, Settipalem, Chintaladevi, Yepindpi and Kommi.

" (*c*) The answer is in the negative."

SRI B. SANKARAYYA :—" ఈ relief shops లో ఇచ్చేటటువంటి బియ్యం ధరలు బయట మార్కెట్ ధరలకన్న ఎక్కువగా ఉన్నవని చెప్పి కలెక్టర్ గారికి ప్రభుత్వంవారికి ఇదివరకే తెలియజేశాము. అయినప్పటికీ ధరలు తగ్గించలేదు. యీ విషయాన్ని మరల మంత్రిగారికి కట్టెరుకు తెలియజేసుకున్నాము. ఇప్పుడైనా ధరలు తగ్గించారో లేదో తెలియజేయ వలసినదని కోరుచున్నాను?"

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THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" It is not a fact that rice was being sold at $12\frac{1}{2}$ annas per seer; it was being sold at Re. 0–9–7 per seer. It might happen sometimes that the price in the open market is lower than the price in the fair price shop, in which case it is open to the people to purchase in the open market. It is not compulsory that they should purchase in the fair price shop only."

SRI D. SEETHARAMIAH :— ' Fair price shops లో అమ్ముతున్న ధాన్యానికి ప్రభుత్వం subsidy ఇవ్వదలచు కున్నదా ? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" The present policy is to sell on a ' no-profit no-loss ' basis."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" What is the Government's definition of ' fair price ' ? Do the Government mean by fair price, a price higher than that ruling in the open market ? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, the policy is this. During the harvest season, we procure a certain quantity of rice from the producers. We also import rice from abroad. We fix the price on the basis of the actual cost and we are prepared to sell at the same price throughout the year. But the price in the open market is fluctuating, and it is open to the people to purchase in the open market when the open market price is lower than the fair price. But when the open market price is higher, the Government are prepared to sell at the fair price fixed by them."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" Are the Government prepared to sell rice to all the people who want rice at that rate throughout the year ? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Yes, Sir, to the extent of the quantity of rice available with us."

SRI G. LATCHANNA :—" Fair price means a price at which the poor can buy the foodgrains, but in this case it is actually higher than the market price. Will the Government therefore consider the desirability of reducing the fair price so that the poor can buy the foodstuffs at a price lower than the market price ? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I am really unable to follow the question, even though it is put in English."

SRI M. HANUMANTHA RAO :—"అధ్యక్షా, ఈ fair price shops ను చాలాచోట్ల harvesting season లో close చేశారు. వెంటనే ఇప్పుడైనా వాటి ని తిరిగి open చేయడానికి ప్రభుత్వం చర్యలు తీసుకుంటుందా ? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Fair price shops have been closed wherever they were found unnecessary, in view of the fact that the price in the open market has gone down considerably. But the Collectors have been authorized to open fair price shops whenever the need arises."

SRI P. RAMAMURTHI :—" The Hon. Minister did not answer my supplementary question. He simply stated the policy

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of the Government. My question was about the criterion that the Government adopted for determining the fair price. Is it the capacity of the people to buy or some other consideration?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" 'Fair price' means a price which is neither low nor high."

Certificate-holders who pass out of Polytechnics.

* 5 *Q.*—SRI N. RAMAKRISHNA AYYAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state whether there is any machinery set up by the Government to find out if the certificate-holders of the various Polytechnics take up the trade in which they have obtained proficiency?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" No, Sir. There is no such machinery but, the Inspectors of Industrial Schools and the teaching staff in the Polytechnics are generally satisfied that the students who have completed their studies in the Certificate courses have taken up the trade in which they are trained."

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" Are these certificate-holders absorbed in Government service and are they given any preference?"

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" There is no preference. If there is a vacancy, their applications are considered along with the applications of others."

SRI T. C. NARAYANA NAMBIAR :—" Sir, have the Government received any representations from certificate-holders to the effect that they could not get a job in the trade in which they have obtained proficiency?"

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" No, Sir, I do not think I have received any such representation at all."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—" ఈ certificates ఉన్నవాళ్లను లేనివాళ్లను ఒకే విధంగా చూచినట్లయితే certificates ఇచ్చిన ప్రయోజనం ఏమిటి ? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" The certificate-holders are given preference."

Water-supply Scheme for Turaiyur.

* 6 *Q.*—MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member, Sri P. Rangaswami Reddiar is not in his place. The question and answer will be printed in the proceedings."

SRI P. RANGASAMI REDDIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have been receiving representations from the public of Turaiyur for the provision of protected water-supply to the people;